

DOWNHAM RURAL DISTRICT.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

FOR THE

Y E A R 1946.

C.T. DARWENT, L.R.C.P.; L.R.C.S.; D.P.H.

D O W N H A M R U R A L D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

Members of the Public Health Committee

	Chairman - Major J. H. L. Luddington.
Mr. W. Addison	Mr. H. Gates
E. Barker	Col: E. R. Herbert
W. H. Bentley	Mr. R. H. G. Hoff
W. A. Buckenham	H. J. Martin
R. D. Carter	Col: E. R. Pratt
R. A. Clayton	Mr. M. Stocks
A. P. Deck	C. W. Thornhill
A. Dye	G. G. Wright

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council are ex-officio members of the Committee.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Dr. James Gibb M.A.; M.B.; Ch.B:

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

S. C. Rigg M.S.I.A.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR

H. W. Nowell Assoc. M.C.T.; M.S.I.A.

CLERK TO THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

K. Saint

STOKE FERRY,

November, 1947.

To the CHAIRMAN and COUNCILLORS of the Rural District of DOWNHAM

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present on behalf of
Dr. James Gibb - late Temporary Medical Officer, the Annual report
on the health and sanitary circumstances of your district for 1946.

The report is almost solely statistical, as your
late Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Rigg, retired in May of this year, and
no figures or reports are available from that source.

I am sure Dr. Gibb would wish me to express
his appreciation of the help and guidance offered him in his duties
by the Councillors and Executive Officers of the Council.

I have the honour to be, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. T. DARWENT.

Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1946.

Area (acres).....124,152.
 Population 1931 (Census15,503 194619,840
 Number of separate dwellings occupied 1946 6,624
 Rateable Value 1946£41,080
 Product of a penny rate 1946£253. 5. 4d.

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Adminis-</u>
Legitimate.....	361	197	164	Downham Rural England	<u>trative</u>
Illegitimate.....	39	16	23	District & Wales	<u>County.</u>
	400	213	187	20.1	19.1 20.94

STILLBIRTHS (per 1,000 total (Live & Still) births)

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>AD. COUNTY</u>
Legitimate.....	12	5	7	DRD.	
Illegitimate	Nil	-	-		
	12	5	7	29.1	24.63

DEATHS (All causes)

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>DRD</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>AD. C.</u>
	226	126	100	11.2	11.5	12.37

DEATHS from Puerperal Causes

Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis..... Nil
 Other Puerperal Causes Nil

	<u>DRD</u>	<u>RATE</u>	<u>AD. C.</u>
<u>INFANT MORALITY</u> - rate per 1,000 Live Births	20	43	31.46
Legitimate 8 (per 1,000 Legit. Live Births)	22.1	-	29.75
Illegitimate " " " " " "	Nil	-	49.73
Total 8			

DEATHS FROM

Cancer (All ages)31
 Measles (" ")NIL
 Whooping Cough (All ages).....NIL
 Diarrhoea (Under 2 years).....NIL

SECTION A.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Pathological specimens and samples of water for bacteriological examination are sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Norwich.

The Public Analyst is W. Lincolne Sutton, Esq., F.R.I.C., Norwich.

DIPHTHERIA ANTITOXIN

A supply of Antitoxin in accordance with the provision of the DIPHTHERIA (Outside London) ORDER, 1910, is available free of charge to medical practitioners for use in the District from Messrs. Smith & Wesley, Chemists, Downham Market.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

Non-Infectious and accident cases are removed by the St. John's Ambulance Brigade stationed in Downham Market.

Cases of Infectious Diseases are removed by the ambulance from East Dereham Isolation Hospital.

CHILDREN'S HOME

DENVER HALL. This is now occupied by evacuee children. It is hoped, however, to convert it next year into a Home for children aged 2 to 5 years.

HOSPITALS The two main Hospitals serving the area are:-

- (a) The West Norfolk and King's Lynn General Hospital
- (b) The Downham Public Assistance Institution.

Hospital Accomodation for Infectious Diseases

This is provided by the East Dereham Isolation Hospital under the authority of the Norfolk County Health Authority.

Emergency Maternity Hospital at Stow Bardolph under the Norfolk County Health Authority.

SECTION B.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply of the Rural District is obtained from three sources:-

- (1) The Northern area is supplied by mains from the Wisbech Water Company's Works at Marham.
- (2) The Central and South Eastern area by mains from the Council's pumping station at Feltwell.
- (3) The South Western area is supplied from a main belonging to the Ely Rural District Council, water being pumped into a Water Tower at Welney.

There still remain large areas of the District without a supply of mains water, but in the latter part of the year a scheme was drawn up by the Council's Consulting Engineers to meet the needs of these areas. The scheme was finally approved by the Council and is now awaiting the approval of the Norfolk County Council and the Ministry of Health.

The quality of the mains supplies was well maintained during the year.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The Council do not own any Sewage Disposal Works. In October of this year a cesspool emptier was put into commission for the emptying of private cesspools, and this vehicle is also used for the emptying of pail closets, which was formerly done by private contract. Pail closets are now emptied weekly in the Parishes of Fincham, Downham West, Hilgay (including Ten Mile Bank) and Denver.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Closet accommodation in your district is approximately:-

20% Water Closets

30% Privies

50% Pails

Many of the Privy Closets are insanitary, and require conversion to Pails or Water Closets.

DISINFECTION

In all cases of Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever, disinfection of the house was carried out immediately after the removal of the patient to Hospital, or after the recovery of a patient isolated at home. Disinfections were also carried out after death, or removal, of patients suffering from Phthisis. The disinfectant used was formaldehyde.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

No case of infestation by bed bugs was discovered.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

During the year, action was taken in four cases of unlicensed van dwellers. In each case the vans were removed.

There is one Licensed camping site in the area, but this was not in use during the year.

RATS & MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919, INFESTATION ORDER, 1943.

All complaints of rat and mice infestation were promptly dealt with. In localities where complaints were numerous, surveys were made and block control methods adopted. The Council's Refuse Tips received attention as and when necessary. The Council do not employ a rodent operative, and the work is carried out by the Pests Dept. of the Norfolk War Agricultural Executive Committee.

SECTION C.

HOUSING

A complete survey of all the houses in the Rural District is in progress. During the year, seven parishes were surveyed, totalling 1,397 houses.

SECTION D.

INSPECTION & SUPERVISION

OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY

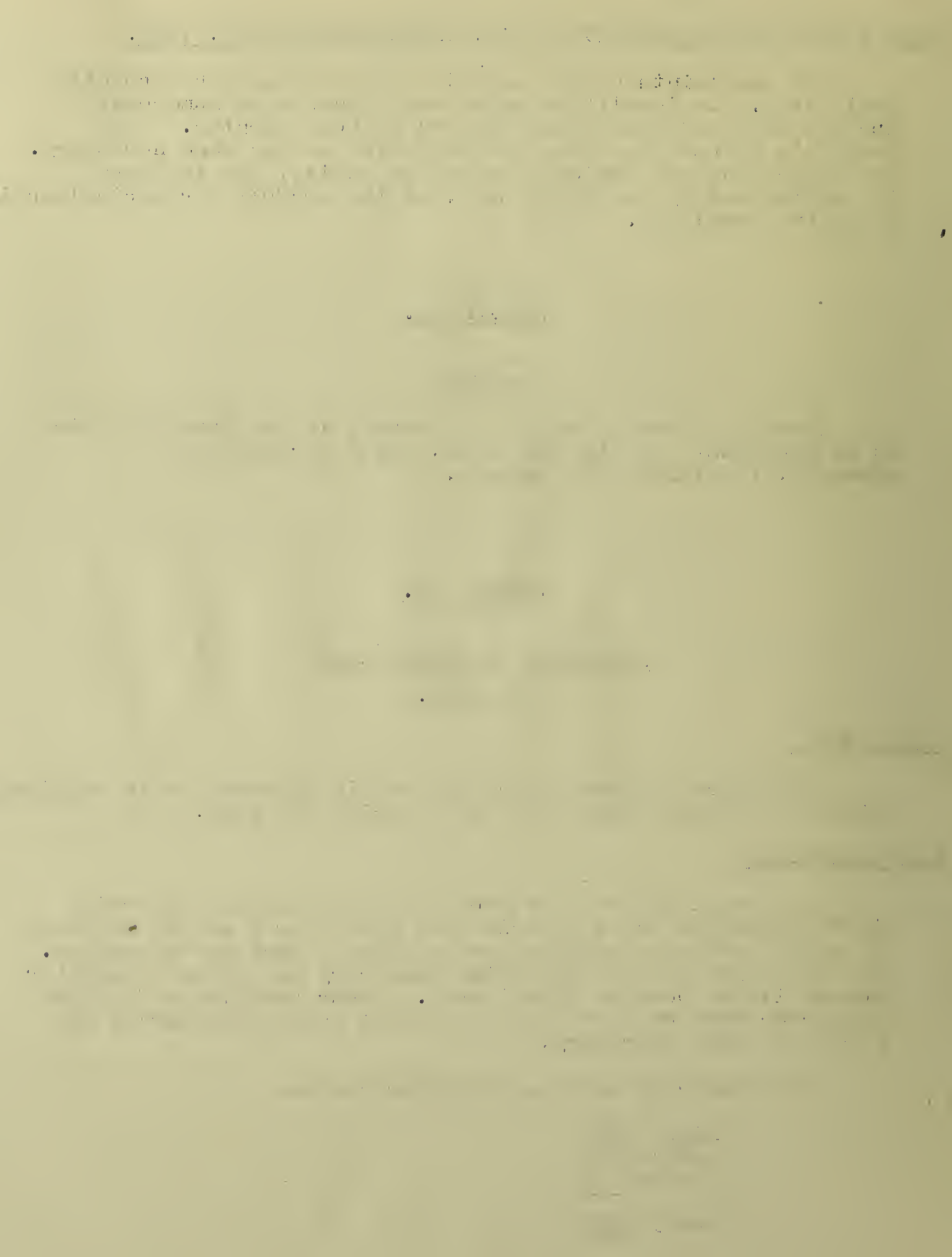
There are 276 cowkeepers and retail dairymen on the register. Eight new registrations were made during the year.

MEAT INSPECTION

Due to an outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease occurring in the Boughton area, restrictions were placed on the movement of cattle and pigs usually sent to King's Lynn for slaughter. The situation was met by making temporary use of two slaughter houses in the Downham Market area. Your additional Sanitary Inspector took over the duties of Meat Inspection during the period of this emergency.

The number of animals slaughtered was:-

Pigs	328
Cattle	161
Calves	<u>8</u>
Total	<u>497</u>



The total amount of Meat and Offal condemned as unfit for human consumption was 1 ton 2 cwt. 50 lbs., which included two complete bovine carcasses and offals, affected by generalised Tuberculosis.

FOOD INSPECTION

In addition to the above Meat Inspection, inspections of food were made at grocers and butchers retail shops, and canteens, resulting in the following food stuffs being condemned as unfit for human consumption:--

Beef	57 lbs.	Cheese	27 lbs.
Lamb	21 lbs.	Prunes	25 lbs.
Pork	11 lbs.	Pudding Mixture	25 packets
Bacon	5 lbs.	Chocolate	4 doz. bars
Fish	22 lbs.	Tins of Meat,	
Meat Pies	1,224	Fish, Fruit, etc.	295.

SECTION E.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

SMALLPOX - NIL

SCARLET FEVER

Twenty one cases were notified during the year, none of a severe type. There were NO deaths.

DIPHTHERIA

No cases were notified during the year.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

This is carried out by the General Practitioners of the District. Alum Precipitated Toxoid is supplied free from the Health Department, Council Offices, Downham Market, to all practitioners for use in the District.

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF CHILDREN IMMUNISED, 1946.

0 - 5 years	5 - 15 years	TOTAL
161	269	430

PURPERAL PYREXIA

Only one case was notified during 1946.

PNEUMONIA

Eighteen cases were notified, six of which were in children 5 years of age and under. There were 5 deaths.

ERYSIPELAS

Seven cases were notified, all in persons over 35 years of age.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER. - NIL.

MEASLES

Twentysix cases were notified during the year. This is one of the lowest figures in the County. NO deaths were recorded.

WHOOPING COUGH

There were 52 cases notified during the year. There were NO deaths.

TUBERCULOSIS

Year	New Cases, TUBERCULOSIS - All Forms			Rate per 1000 of Population.	
	Male	Female	Total	Downham Rural District.	County
1946	8	10	18	0.91	1.19

STATISTICAL TABLES, 1946.

Table No. 1.

Causes of Death

Causes of Death:					Total	Male	Female
1.	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	...	...	...	NIL		
2.	Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	NIL		
3.	Scarlet fever	...	...	...	NIL		
4.	Whooping cough	...	...	...	NIL		
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	NIL		
6.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	2	2	-
7.	Other forms tuberculosis	...	...	...	3	1	2
8.	Syphilitic diseases	...	...	...	1	1	-
9.	Influenza	...	...	...	2	1	1
10.	Measles	...	...	...	NIL		
11.	Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis	...	...	...	NIL		
12.	Acute infective encephalitis	...	...	...	NIL		
13.	Cancer of the buccal cavity and oesophagus (M) uterus (F)	...	...	...	5	3	2
14.	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	5	5	-
15.	Cancer of breast	...	...	...	1	-	1
16.	Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	20	14	6
17.	Diabetes	...	...	...	2	1	1
18.	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	...	...	...	39	25	14
19.	Heart disease	...	...	...	64	30	34
20.	Other diseases of circulatory system	...	...	...	7	2	5
21.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	10	5	5
22.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	5	4	1
23.	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	1	-	1
24.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	3	1	2
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	...	...	NIL		
26.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	1	-	1
27.	Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	4	2	2
28.	Nephritis	...	...	...	7	3	4
29.	Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	...	...	...	NIL		
30.	Other maternal causes	...	...	...	1	-	1
31.	Premature birth	...	...	...	2	1	1
32.	Congenital malformations, birth injury and infantile diseases	...	...	...	6	4	2
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	1	1	-
34.	Road traffic accidents	...	...	...	1	1	-
35.	Other violent causes	...	...	...	3	3	-
36.	All other causes	...	...	...	30	16	14
	All Causes	...	...	...	226	126	100

SECTION E. - TABLE No. 2.

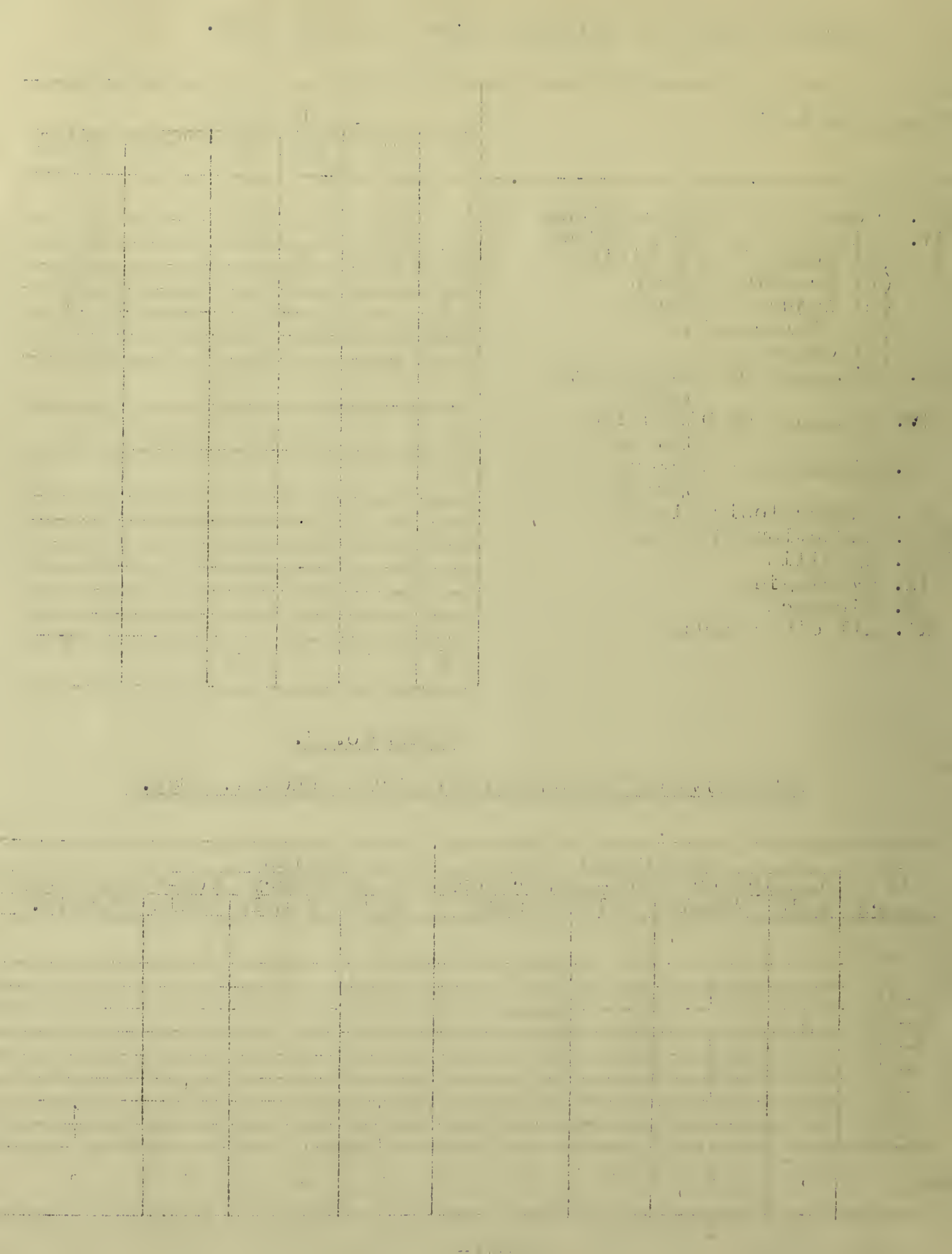
CAUSES OF DEATH OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR, 1946.

Causes of Death	Age in Weeks					Total
	-1	-2	-3	-4	5-52	
1. Congenital Malformations						
11. Diseases of Early Infancy						
(a) Congenital Debility	1		1			2
(b) Premature Birth	2					2
(c) Injury at Birth	1					1
(d) Atelectasis	2					2
(e) Others						
111. Diseases of Respiratory System						
1V. Diseases of Digestive System					1	1
V. Diseases of Nervous System						
V1. Tuberculosis Disease						
V11. Infectious Disease						
V111. Syphilis						
1X. Overlaying						
X. Violence						
X1. All other causes						
	6	-	1	-	1	8

TABLE No. 3.

NEW CASES OF AND DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS, 1946.

Age in Years	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory Male	Respiratory Female	Non-Respiratory Male	Non-Respiratory Female	Respiratory Male	Respiratory Female	Non-Respiratory Male	Non-Respiratory Female
-1								
-5		1		1				
-15		1						
-25	3			3				
-35		1	1					
-45	3	1						
-55		1					1	
-65					1			1
65+					1			1
Totals	6	5	1	4	2	-	1	2



NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE. - TABLE 1V.

(Other than Tuberculosis)

NOTIFICATION IN AGE GROUPS.

Disease	Under 1 Year	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65 and over	Total	Remov- ed to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever.	-	1	-	-	2	8	6	-	3	1	-	-	21	--	NIL
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	--	-
Measles	1	3	4	4	4	6	-	2	1	-	1	-	26	--	-
Whooping Cough	6	5	9	8	2	20	1	-	1	-	-	-	52	--	-
Erysipelas										2	3	2	7	--	-
Pneumonia	1	2	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	2	7	3	18	--	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	--	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	-
Infective Jaundice	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	1	1	3	1	9	--	-
Total													134		

• 1917

• 1918

• 1919

Date		Description		Amount		Balance	
1917	Jan 1	Balance					
1917	Jan 15	Received					
1917	Feb 1	Received					
1917	Feb 15	Received					
1917	Mar 1	Received					
1917	Mar 15	Received					
1917	Apr 1	Received					
1917	Apr 15	Received					
1917	May 1	Received					
1917	May 15	Received					
1917	Jun 1	Received					
1917	Jun 15	Received					
1917	Jul 1	Received					
1917	Jul 15	Received					
1917	Aug 1	Received					
1917	Aug 15	Received					
1917	Sep 1	Received					
1917	Sep 15	Received					
1917	Oct 1	Received					
1917	Oct 15	Received					
1917	Nov 1	Received					
1917	Nov 15	Received					
1917	Dec 1	Received					
1917	Dec 15	Received					
1918	Jan 1	Received					
1918	Jan 15	Received					
1918	Feb 1	Received					
1918	Feb 15	Received					
1918	Mar 1	Received					
1918	Mar 15	Received					
1918	Apr 1	Received					
1918	Apr 15	Received					
1918	May 1	Received					
1918	May 15	Received					
1918	Jun 1	Received					
1918	Jun 15	Received					
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